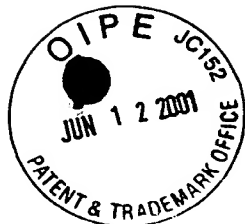


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P.L.H.
6-1701

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TATSUYA TANAKA ET AL : EXAMINER: TRAN
SERIAL NO: 09/550,331 :
FILED: APRIL 14, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1722
FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR :
INJECTION MOLDING LIGHT
METAL ALLOY

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 17, paragraph beginning at line 3 through line 8, delete in its entirety and insert therefor the following new paragraph.

That is, in the method of the present invention, since the molten metal 5 is formed into the semi-solidified slurry 7 in the vertical chamber 2, the molten metal 5 is formed into the slurry 7 after the insert gas contained in the molten metal 5 has been driven off by the pressure and the buoyancy. Accordingly, mixing of pores into the molding products due to involvement of the inert gas can be prevented, thereby preventing occurrence of defective products as less as possible.

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